

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-21 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 1, 11 and 18. Applicants also amend the specification to correct an informality. No new matter is added

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Kauffman and Nerbun in the October 26 personal interview. Applicants incorporate a separate record of the substance of the interview into the following remarks.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's indication that claims 6, 7, and 16-21 recite allowable subject matter. However, as agreed upon during the personal interview, claims 1-21 are allowable over the applied art for at least the following reasons.

The Office Action objects to the specification and claim 18 for informalities. By this Amendment, Applicants amend the specification and claim 18 to correct the informalities. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objections.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 8-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent 3,250,447 to Larew. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.


As agreed during the personal interview, Larew does not disclose "a threading hook configured to pass through an eye of a needle, engage a thread, and withdraw from the eye of the needle such that the thread passes through the eye of the needle," as recited in amended claims 1 and 11. Accordingly, claims 1 and 11 are patentable over Larew.

Further, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-5 and 8-15 are patentable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 11 are patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

In view of at least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Applicants earnestly solicit favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-21.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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